

# City Manager's Blog

## Deanna J. Santana

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**City Proceeds with Appeal in Voting Rights Case:** At the Council meeting on August 21, the Council affirmed its position to preserve the City's rights to challenge the trial court's decision in the California Voting Rights Act case where plaintiffs have challenged that Santa Clara residents vote based on racial considerations. The Council unanimously approved moving forward with an appeal of the trial court decision. The appeal itself has no effect on the November 2018 election, which will proceed in accordance with the Court Order – the Mayor and City Clerk will be elected at-large and those that reside within Districts 2 and 3 will elect Council Members who also reside within each district. For more information, visit [www.santaclaraca.gov/districts](http://www.santaclaraca.gov/districts).

**Santa Clara Fire Department (SCFD) Accreditation:** On August 21, City Manager Deanna Santana, Mayor Lisa Gillmor and members of the City Council recognized the Fire Department for its recent International Accreditation. SCFD was unanimously awarded International Accredited Agency status by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International! The two-year accreditation process included a recent interview with Fire Chief Kelly and members of the Department command staff regarding the Fire Department's practices and procedures as they relate to the delivery of emergency services. The award of Accredited Agency status is a significant achievement for SCFD and the community, as it verifies that the organization has established a process for continuous improvement in the way fire and emergency services are delivered.

**Recognition of First Responders from Santa Clara Fire and Silicon Valley Power:** Also honored on August 21, the City Manager, Mayor and members of the City Council recognized personnel from the Santa Clara Fire Department (SCFD) and Silicon Valley Power (SVP) who returned home from providing mutual aid to the Carr Fire and the Mendocino Complex Fire. SCFD crews worked for 14 days fighting the fire, preparing homes in advance of the fire, and helping citizens stay safe



Page 1



**City of  
Santa Clara**  
The Center of What's Possible

during wildfire conditions. SVP crews worked 16-hour days in smoky conditions with temperatures over 100 degrees to rebuild power lines. The City commends our City staff for their tremendous efforts to provide emergency assistance to the greater Bay Area community and state.



**Santa Clara Fire Department Deployment to Hawaii:** Two Santa Clara firefighters were activated on August 22 to respond to Hawaii in assisting with search and rescue operations as the result of Hurricane Lane. SCFD responders are members of California Task Force 3, a FEMA Urban Search and Rescue team based in Menlo Park. The full team of 45 responders is expected to assist with search and rescue operations for a period of up to two weeks, depending on the severity of damage caused by the storm. For more information, contact the Fire Department at 408-615-4900.

**Lead Testing in Schools:** In 2016, the City completed lead and copper testing as required under the Federal Lead and Copper Rule. All results met Federal and State requirements and were well below the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) action level, however the Federal Lead and Copper Rule focuses on residential homes and does not require testing at schools. The CA State Water Resource Control Board's Division of Drinking Water, along with the State Department of Education, has created regulations that require all water agencies to provide testing for lead in drinking water for all K-12 public, private, and charter schools directly served by the water agencies. City staff reached out to both the Cupertino Union School District



(CUSD) and the Santa Clara Unified School District (SCUSD). City staff completed lead monitoring at Eisenhower Elementary School, from CUSD, and all results came back well below the EPA action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb). This testing has to be done while school is in session, so with the start of the new school year, staff is coordinating with SCUSD staff to complete testing at their facilities. For more information, contact the Water and Sewer Department 408-615-2000.

**City Council Early Consideration of a General Plan Amendment for 3131 Homestead Ave. (Laguna Clara Apartments):** A General Plan Amendment application was submitted by Equity Residential for the existing 12.42-acre multi-family residential property at 3131 Homestead. The Early Consideration Policy provides an opportunity for the City Council to review proposed General Plan Amendments prior to the significant investment in time and cost by the applicant and City staff required to complete the full review process. The existing General Plan designation for the site is Medium Density Residential and the site is currently developed with a 264-unit apartment complex. The proposed General Plan Amendment to High Density Residential (37 to 50 dwelling units/acre) would allow the intensification of the existing property. The City Council hearing for early consideration of a proposed General Plan Amendment at 3131 Homestead Avenue is scheduled for November 13 (the project was noticed for August 28, but we are requesting that the item be continued to November 13, at the applicant's request).

**Santa Clara University Submits a Building Permit Application:** Santa Clara University submitted a building permit application for the Discover and Innovation Building consisting of a four-story 273,429 square foot building with three wings. The building will be used for classrooms, teaching and research laboratories, offices, and educational shops.

**Silicon Valley Power MeterConnect Project:** As a part of its MeterConnect Project, Silicon Valley Power has been retrofitting old mechanical electric meters with new advanced digital meters through use of our contractor, PMI. Over half of the electric meters in Santa Clara are now advanced digital meters and installations will continue through the end of the year. If customers have questions about their meter installation, contact Silicon Valley Power at 408-244-7283 or [cutcosts@svpower.com](mailto:cutcosts@svpower.com).

**Library Summer Reading Program Hits Record in Participation:** This summer the Library organized the most successful summer reading program ever. More than 7,600 community members of all ages set a reading goal this summer and joined in activities and events at the Central Park and Northside Libraries! By the end of August, the Library had inspired patrons, as a community, to read more than 84,000 books – that's 34 books for every child, 10 books for every teen, and six books for every adult that completed the program. The Library takes pride in our supportive, engaged community and passionate staff who made this program a success. For more information, contact the Central Park Library at 408-615-2900.

**Traffic Safety on First Day of School:** On August 16, students in the Santa Clara Unified School District returned to school after summer break. The Santa Clara Police Department (SCPD) conducted a social media campaign aimed at informing drivers of school zones and promoting bicycle and pedestrian safety. The SCPD motorcycle traffic unit focused on traffic enforcement at local schools during the morning and afternoon. Numerous citations and

warnings were issued for various traffic violations. For more information, contact the Police Department at 408-615-4700.

**Reserve Police Officers Attend Training Conference:** The 41st Annual Reserve Peace Officers Conference was held in Sacramento on August 15 to 18. The Reserve Police Unit of the Santa Clara Police Department attended classes at the conference providing Peace Officers Standards in Training (POST) which fulfills the required 24 hours of advanced officer training for reserve officers in the state of California. For more information, contact the Police Department at 408-615-4700.

**International Swim Center:** The aging infrastructure of the International Swim Center continues to receive periodic maintenance of critical issues by the Parks & Recreation Department. With swim season over, a partial shutdown was scheduled for the week of August 21. The Parks Division did plaster patching, testing, and upgrades to LED light fixtures. The second pedestal shower was installed in both the men's and women's shower rooms. Concrete slurry coating was completed on the pool decks. During maintenance, daily operations were minimally impacted. For more information, contact Parks & Recreation at 408-615-2260.

**Central Park Pond Maintenance – Update:** The draining and cleaning of the Central Park Pond Project is nearing completion. The lower, larger pond is complete and dry. The upper, smaller pond is in the final wash stage. Drying occurred the week of August 21; the drying process mimics the natural process of vernal ponds in the western U.S. that go dry during the summer months. Refilling of the pond with over a million gallons of reclaimed (recycled) water will occur during the week of August 27. For more information, contact Parks & Recreation at 408-615-2260.



## **CURRENT JOB OPENINGS**

Join the Center of What's Possible! The City is currently hiring for the following positions; to view job descriptions and for information on how to apply, visit: [www.santaclaraca.gov/jobs](http://www.santaclaraca.gov/jobs).

- As-Needed Instructor/Lifeguard
- Business Analyst
- Combination Inspector
- Electric Utility Generation Technician
- Electric Utility Programmer Analyst
- Electrician
- Journey Lineworker
- Library Program Coordinator – Youth Services
- Management Analyst – Finance Department
- Per Diem Police Officer Special Events
- Permit Center Supervisor
- Police Officer
- Public Safety Dispatcher II
- Recreation Instructor
- Recruit Police Officer
- Risk Manager
- Senior Inspector
- Senior Plans Examiner

## **RESPONSE TO COUNCIL INQUIRIES/FOLLOW-UP**

**Sister Cities Association Funding:** The City has three Sister Cities that it engages with to promote cultural exchange: Coimbra, Portugal, Izumo, Japan and Limerick, Ireland. The City's participation as a Sister City is mainly facilitated through a nonprofit organization, Santa Clara Sister Cities Association that organizes high school, middle school, and music and art exchange programs. The City pays annual membership dues to Sister Cities International, a nonprofit organization conceived by President Eisenhower, to foster bonds between different communities around the world. The City also sponsors the Santa Clara Sister Cities Association to pay for expenses related to the youth, music and art exchange programs. The Sister Cities International membership fee for 2018 was \$1,000 and the City has \$5,659 budgeted for its FY 2018/19 contribution to the Santa Clara Sister Cities Association. Together, the membership and contribution to Santa Clara Sister Cities Association totals \$6,659 and currently resides in the Cultural Commission's budget. As part of the FY 2019/20 Proposed Budget, the funding for the Sister Cities Association will be moved from the Cultural Commission appropriation to its own fund appropriation.

**Santa Clara University Transportation Demand Management:** Council recently expressed interest in Santa Clara University's Transportation Demand Management (TDM) efforts. In response to the inquiry, below is a compilation of activities and programs that Santa Clara University is currently undertaking to reduce the single vehicle trips generated from students and employees. Activities include:

- Bicycle commuter incentives
- 50% discounts for ACE Train
- Zipcars with a special University program that allows those as young as 18 to rent a car
- ChargePoint Electric Vehicle charging stations
- Electric Vehicle Purchase subsidies for students and employees
- Free Airport Flyer (promoting campus proximity to the VTA transit center)
- Public transit incentives
- Carpool incentives (registered carpoolers receive free parking)
- Free ridesharing app
- Pre-Tax Transportation Spending Account



To date, the City has not reviewed a formal TDM plan for Santa Clara University. Within the next few months, the University has indicated that they will be submitting an Amendment to the University's Master Use Permit for the development of a 50,000 square foot Athletic Excellence Center. Pursuant to the City's General Plan Policies which call for new development to prepare TDM plans, as part of this Master Use Permit Amendment the University will be preparing a TDM plan for the City's review and approval.

### **LEVI'S STADIUM RELATED UPDATES**

**Rent Arbitration Payment:** As reported by Stadium Authority Counsel Brian Doyle during the City Council and Authorities Concurrent meeting on August 21, the result of the rent arbitration between the Stadium Authority and the 49ers SC Stadium Company, LLC (StadCo) is an additional \$262,000 annually in Facility Rent to the Stadium Authority over the 40-year lease term, and an award of Attorney's Fees. I am pleased to report that Stadium Authority staff and StadCo staff have been cooperatively working together and have reached agreement that the four years of additional rent totaling \$1,048,000 will be paid to the Stadium Authority by September 15, 2018.

#### **Upcoming Stadium Events**

August 30	NFL Game: 49ers Preseason (San Diego)
September 16	NFL Game: 49ers (Detroit)
September 29	Concert: OTR II (Jay-Z and Beyoncé)
October 7	NFL Game: 49ers (Arizona)
October 21	NFL Game: 49ers (Los Angeles)
November 1	NFL Game: 49ers (Oakland)
November 12	NFL Game: 49ers (New York)
November 30	College Football: 2018 Pac-12 Championship

### **UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS**

**Ice Cream Social at the Senior Center:** Save the date for Wednesday, August 29, when the Senior Center hosts the annual Ice Cream Social. Stop by between 11 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. and enjoy an ice cream sundae. Cost is \$2.00 for Santa Clara Seniors and \$3.00 for other ice cream enthusiasts. For more information, contact Parks & Recreation at 408-615-2260.

**Reed and Grant Sports Park Groundbreaking on August 30:** The City will host a groundbreaking ceremony to kick off construction of the new Reed and Grant Sports Park on August 30 at 3:30 p.m. at the corner of Reed and Grant Streets. Attendees are invited to hear remarks by the Mayor, enjoy light refreshments, and participate in the groundbreaking





ceremony. Construction of Reed and Grant Sports Park will continue from August 2018 through August 2019. For more information, contact Parks and Recreation at 408-615-2260.

**Free Rubbish Disposal Day on September 16:** Santa Clara residents may take advantage of a free rubbish disposal drop-off event on September 16 from 6 a.m. to noon. Among the items accepted are mattresses, furniture, and appliances. Appointments are required for residents. Contact Mission Trail Waste Systems at 408-727-5365 between September 3 to 14 to make an appointment and obtain information about the drop-off location, load size limits, and accepted materials.

**Gun Buyback Event on September 29:** The Police Department will be participating in a North County Gun Buyback Program on September 29 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church, 728 W. Fremont Avenue, Sunnyvale. Residents will be able to sell back their unwanted firearms at this event. For more information, contact the Police Department at 408-615-4700.

### **UPCOMING COUNCIL CALENDAR/AGENDA ITEMS**

Visit the Tentative Meeting Agenda Calendar for dates of upcoming Council Study Sessions, Joint Council/Commission meetings, as well as Council Public Hearing and General Business agenda items online at [Legislative Public Meetings](#) on the City's website. As you can see, while tentative and subject to change, it provides key policy items that the Council/Board will need to dedicate time to deliberate and that may take considerable time during the upcoming meetings.



Deanna J. Santana  
City Manager

